

The Distressed L A D Y ;

Or, A Trial of True Love.

In FIVE PARTS.

Loyal lovers give attention,
You can surely do no less,
While this story I do mention,
Of a Lady in Distress.
Who in Cupid's snare had crept in,
Between two her passion strove,
A lieutenant and a captain,
Here's the trial of true love.
Near St. James's liv'd a lady,
Few her beauty could compare,
Youthful dress as fine as may be,
And two thousand pounds a year;
Jewels too, and other treasure,
All her fortune in her hand,
To dispose of at her pleasure,
None else could the same command.
Fame had loud reported,
Many gallant suitors came,
But, alas! in vain they courted,
This young beautiful rich dame.
For she'd still protest that never
Any should her husband be,
But some valiant man of honour,
In the wars by land or sea.

PART II.

NOW it chanc'd among all others,
That did this young lady woo,
Two brisk sparks and younger brothers,
Eagerly their fate pursue.
One bought a captain's commission,
Under the brave Colonel Carr,
The other was a first lieutenant
In the Tyger man of war,
All things for the wars make ready
In order the voyage to make,
Each their leave of this fair lady,
As a last farewell did take.
Here, dear madam, here before you,
Said the captain on his knee,
One that more than life adores you,
Therefore pity, pity me.

The lieutenant being ready,
Boldly spoke the captain to,
Sure 'tis I must win this lady,
Thro' more dangers great than you,
Thund'ring cannons, smok and fire
Are the dangers least I fear.
More I'll court, tho' more aspire,
For the honour of my dear.
When the lady heard each other,
Pity moved in her breast,
Yet the same would not discover,
But her mind she thus express'd:
Gentlemen, due thanks I render,
For your loves express'd to me,
May kind heaven be your defender,
Whether it be by land or sea.
Since 'tis so you both adore me,
As you solemnly protest,
And your lives will venture for me,
From which you'll not desist.
Here I promise, if in safety
From the wars you do return,
One of you a husband make me,
And will have no other man.
Pleas'd at this, they kiss'd at parting,
And then for the wars did go,
Leaving this lady for a season,
In much sorrow, grief, and woe.
Love had set her heart on fire,
But she did the same conceal;
Each she lov'd with one desire,
But which most she could not tell.

PART III.

WHEN the bloody wars were over,
Some few regiments broken were,
And among the rest our rover,
The young captain, who in war
Had dangers been surrounded,
Where he gained great renown.
And in many places wounded,
Home to England did return.

The lieutenant in the Tyger,
The same time was ordered home,
Having pass'd many dangers,
And great deeds of honour done.
But among all his misfortunes
That in battle did befall,
He had lost a leg for certain
By a fatal cannon-ball.
Each repair'd unto this lady,
Gallantly they did appear,
And with all submission may be
They approach'd the charming fair.
She with inward joy was seized,
For to see them both return,
And to shew that she was pleas'd,
Gave them a kind welcome home.
Quoth the captain, dearest lady,
On my honour I protest,
I for you to die am ready,
If in love I am not blest.
Many hazards I've gone through:
Greater dangers did I fly,
And now more unto my sorrow,
You must live and I must die.
Then the bold lieutenant cry'd,
For your sake I cross'd the seas,
And my sword hath oft been dy'd
In the blood of enemies.
All my dangers past are nothing,
Thousands more I will go thro',
Dearest lady, no man living
Can love more than I love you.
Was ever lady, then she cried,
Ever in such strait beset,
Equally your loves I've try'd.
Equal honour you have borne,
And here I must own it to you,
Equally I love you too,
Both alike you are to me,
What shall a poor lady do?
Never, never, sure was lady

In such great distress as me,
Never was love so uncommon,
To love two so equally.
Just as these words had ended,
Strait a project she did find,
Which to practice she intended,
Therefore thus she spoke her mind,
Gentlemen, pray ease all sorrow,
I can be but one man's bride,
Come again to me to-morrow,
True love shall our cause decide.

PART IV.

BOTH contented, then they parted,
And the next day being come,
To the lady they resorted,
Each to know his final doom.
Then her coach and six made ready,
To the Tower they did go,
But the project of the lady,
In the least they did not know.
When they came into the Tower,
To her lovers then said she,
Let us walk for one half hour,
All the rarities to see.
All things praising and admiring,
Still wherever they had been,
And at last they back retiring,
Came unto the lion's den.
Loud they roar'd as they came near 'em,
Seemingly the earth did quake.
She at first did seem to fear them,
But at length she thus did speak,
Were you men to win your lady,
By fighting such foes as these.
But to leave them would be ready,
All their charms then would not please.
Then the captain thus reply'd,
Would it so that God did please,
Soon my love it should be try'd,
Against twenty such as these.
Lions, leopards, wolves, and tigers,
With them all my strength I'd prove,
You can, lady, name no danger,
I'd not venture for your love.
To this, said the brave lieutenant,
'Tis in vain to talk thus here,
Lady, ask some danger present,
Who loves best will soon appear.
Since 'tis so, then said the Lady,
Strait her fan threw in the den,
Let the man who now would have me,

Go and fetch it out again.
Then the captain stood amazed:
As tho' he'd been thunder struck,
On the danger yet he gaz'd,
Yet the same ne'er undertook.
Which the brave lieutenant seeing,
To the lady did reply,
Madam, here's the man in being
That will fetch your fan or die.
Leave obtain'd for this adventure,
Away he went to the place,
And as he then did enter,
Look'd the lion in the face.
As the lion mov'd towards him,
He did to the lion move,
Calling unto God to guard him,
For the sake of his true love.
Then the lion on his shoulder
Laid his paw and looked grim,
The lieutenant still grew bolder,
And he did the same by him;
Always still the lion facing,
At the last the beast down lay,
Up the fan then straitway taking,
Back returned the same way.

PART V.

NONE can express the anguish
That this lady underwent,
While the danger he pass'd thro'
She with grief was almost spent.
When she saw her lover coming
From the den, and no harm done,
To his arms she fell a running,
Take the prize that you have won.
Like a man almost distracted,
Then the captain did appear.
For to see what there was acted,
How he lost his dearest dear.
Since, said he, I must surrender
All my life and all my joys,
To some foreign parts I'll wander.
There in sorrow end my days.
The lieutenant and his lady,
Splendidly soon marry'd were.
All content and joy that may be,
Now attend the happy pair.
So young men and maidens ever,
Where you love, there faithful stand,
Let nothing your affections move.
Learn this Trial of True Love,